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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

For: SAFETY INDWELLING NEEDLE

**Please amend Claims 4-6 as follows:**

**LIBRARY**

4. (Amended) The safety indwelling needle according to Claim 1, wherein the retracting mechanism has a stopper for arresting the inner needle moved to the side of the holder sleeve opposite to the outer needle, the stopper includes arrest engagements for stopping the inner needle stored in the holder sleeve relative to the holder sleeve.

5. (Amended) The safety indwelling needle according to Claim 1, wherein, on the outer needle side of the holder sleeve, a grip portion to be held when the outer and inner needles are punctured into the skin of the patient is formed at a position other than a position where the actuating portion of the actuator is arranged.

6. (Amended) The safety indwelling needle according to Claim 1, further comprising a cap which covers the outer and inner needles while keeping them ready for puncture and disables the function of the actuating portion.

10088271.031103

REMARKS

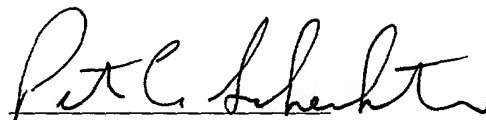
The claims are amended for the purpose of eliminating multiple claim dependencies.

A marked-up version of the claims, which indicates all amendments made, is submitted herewith.

None of the amendments introduces new matter.

An early and favorable examination is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter C. Schechter

Reg. No. 31,662

Attorney for Applicants

Date: March 11, 2002

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File No: 3404/OK343

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Hiroshi TAKAGI; Kentro TAKEMAE

Serial No: T/B/A (U.S. National Phase of PCT/JP01/06051, filed July 12, 2001)

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: SAFETY INDWELLING NEEDLE

**MARK UP TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Hon. Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Attn.: Box PCT, RO/US

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 4-6 as follows:

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4. (Amended) The safety indwelling needle according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein the retracting mechanism has a stopper for arresting the inner needle moved to the side of the holder sleeve opposite to the outer needle, the stopper includes arrest engagements for stopping the inner needle stored in the holder sleeve relative to the holder sleeve.

5. (Amended) The safety indwelling needle according to [any one of Claims 1 to 4] Claim 1, wherein, on the outer needle side of the holder sleeve, a grip portion to be held when the outer and inner needles are punctured into the skin of the patient is formed at a position other than a position where the actuating portion of the actuator is arranged.

6. (Amended) The safety indwelling needle according to [any one of Claims 1 to 5] Claim 1, further comprising a cap which covers the outer and inner needles while keeping them ready for puncture and disables the function of the actuating portion.

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